

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03273 292105Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 DLOS-04 /018 W

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P R 292026Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7394

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HALIFAX UNN

AMCONSUL ST JOHNS UNN

UNCLAS OTTAWA 3273

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EFIS ICNAF CA UR

SUBJ FISHERIES: CANADA/USSR AGREED RECORD

OF UNDERSTANDING, AUGUST 27

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF AUGUST 27 AGREED RECORD OF
UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CANADA AND THE USSR ON FISHERIES
(TEXT RELEASED BY EXTAFF ON AUGUST 28):

BEGIN TEXT: CANADIAN AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS MET AT
OTTAWA FROM AUGUST 25 TO 27, 1975 TO DISCUSS FISHERIES
MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZED THAT IT WAS IMPERATIVE TO
ENSURE STRICT ADHERENCE TO AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
MEASURES AGREED WITHIN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNAF),
PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF THE URGENT NEED TO MAINTAIN
AND RESTORE THE STOCKS. THE CANADIAN AND SOVIET
DELEGATIONS AGREED TO ESTABLISH NEW METHODS OF
COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE THIS RESULT.

FOLLOWING A REVIEW OF PAST DIFFERENCES IN THIS
FIELD, THE TWO SIDES UNDERTOOK TO DEVELOP PROCEDURES
THAT WOULD LEAD TO A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF CATCH
INFORMATION ON WHICH IMPLEMENTATION OF QUOTAS IS BASED,
AND THAT WOULD ENSURE THAT FUTURE DIFFERENCES, SHOULD
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ANY ARISE, COULD BE SATISFACTORILY AND PROMPTLY RESOLVED.

TO THIS END TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES
WILL MEET FROM TIME TO TIME FOR FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AND
COORDINATION OF INFORMATION, WITH THE NEXT SUCH MEETING
TO BE HELD IN SEPTEMBER. IT WAS AGREED TO RECOMMEND
TO THE TWO GOVERNMENTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A "JOINT
FISHERIES CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION" TO CARRY OUT, INTER
ALIA, THE FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:
A) TO REVIEW PROBLEMS REFERRED TO IT BY THE
TWO GOVERNMENTS REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF AGREED MEASURES, AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR THE RESOLUTION OF SUCH PROBLEMS;
B) TO FACILITATE THE COORDINATION OF STATISTICAL
AND SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION;
C) TO IMPROVE BILATERAL COOPERATION UNDER THE
ICNAF SCHEME OF JOINT INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT;
D) TO PROVIDE FOR AN IMPROVED EXCHANGE
OF INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO AREAS
OF CONCENTRATION OF FISHING OPERATIONS
OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND PROMOTE OTHER
COOPERATIVE MEASURES FOR THE PURPOSE
OF PREVENTING DAMAGE TO FISHING GEAR
AND OF FACILITATING THE SETTLEMENT OF
ANY CLAIMS ARISING FROM SUCH DAMAGE;
E) OTHER FUNCTIONS THAT MAY BE ASSIGNED TO
IT BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED
JOINT COMMISSION, THE TWO SIDES FURTHER AGREED TO ENSURE
THE PROMPT DISCONTINUANCE OF A FISHERY WHEN THE NATIONAL
QUOTA ALLOCATION FOR THE STOCK IN QUESTION HAS BEEN
TAKEN. UPON THE EFFECTIVE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH
PROVISIONS AND THE OTHER PROCEDURES REFERRED TO ABOVE,
SOVIET FISHING VESSELS WILL BE GRANTED RENEWED ACCESS
TO CANADA'S ATLANTIC PORTS.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE ROLE OF THE PROPOSED
COMMISSION WOULD HAVE TO BE REEXAMINED IN THE LIGHT OF
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS IN FISHERIES RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES.

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BOTH SIDES ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THEIR
FUTURE COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF FISHERIES. THEY
EXPRESSED THEIR READINESS TO MEET AT AN EARLY
OPPORTUNITY IN ORDER TO CONSIDER THE ELABORATION OF
A BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON FISHERIES COOPERATION THAT
WOULD ESTABLISH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS GOVERNING
CONTINUED FISHING BY THE SOVIET FLEET IN WATERS OFF

CANADA'S COASTS, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ANTICIPATED
LEGAL AND JURISDICTIONAL CHANGES IN THE REGIME OF
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN SUCH WATERS AND TRADITIONAL
SOVIET FISHING.

THE TWO SIDES REVIEWED THE CANADIAN PROPOSALS
FOR THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF FISH STOCKS
OFF CANADA'S ATLANTIC COAST FIRST ADVANCED AT THE
JUNE 1975 MEETING OF ICNAF AND SCHEDULED FOR FURTHER
DISCUSSION AT THE SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING TO BE HELD
AT MONTREAL IN SEPTEMBER. THE CANADIAN SIDE STRESSED
THE IMPORTANCE CANADA ATTACHES TO THESE PROPOSALS
AND THEIR POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF ICNAF.

THE SOVIET DELEGATION WAS CHAIRED BY MR. ALEKSEY
A. VOLKOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF FISHERIES; THE CHAIRMAN OF
THE CANADIAN DELEGATION WAS MR. L.H. LEGAULT,
DIRECTOR GENERAL, INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES AND MARINE
DIRECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT. END TEXT.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHING AGREEMENTS, FISHERIES MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA03273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750300-0320
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975085/aaaaadwg.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisooob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 DEC 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <07 JAN 2004 by ellisooob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FISHERIES: CANADA/USSR AGREED RECORD OF UNDERSTANDING, AUGUST 27
TAGS: EFIS, CA, UR, ICNAF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006